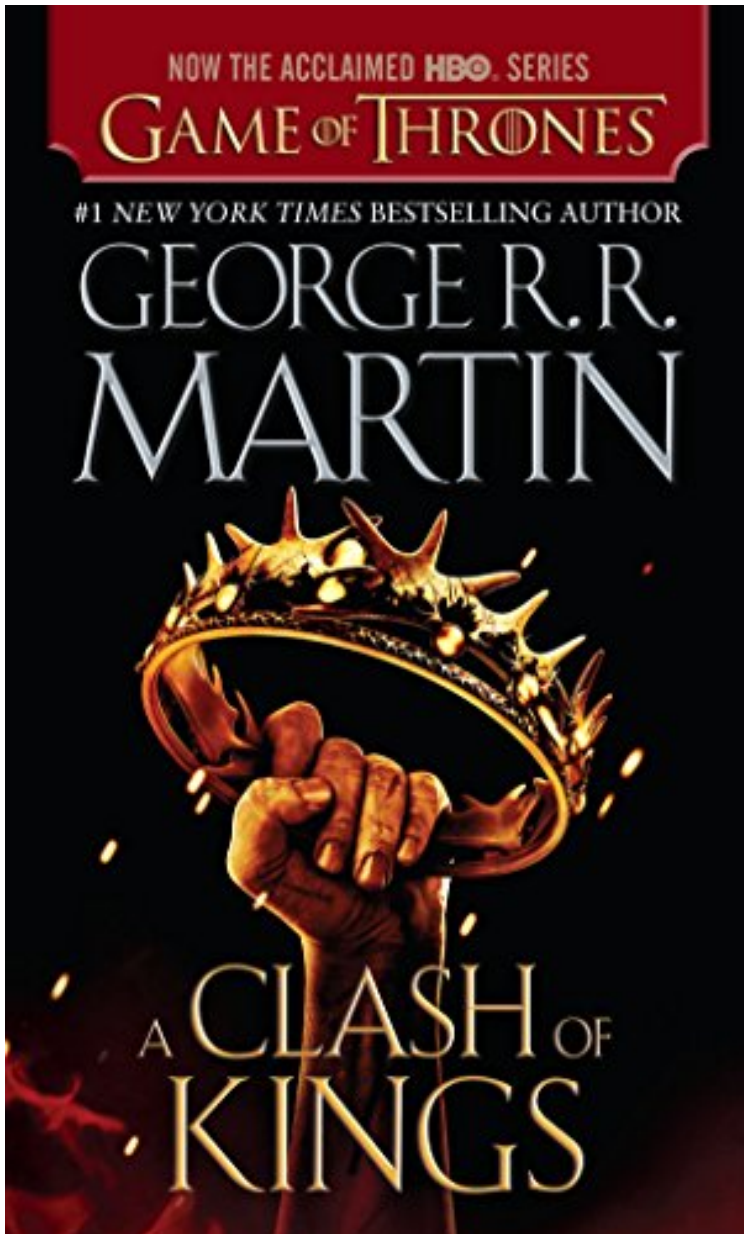


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A Clash of Kings (A Song of Ice and Fire, Book 2)



Par George R. R. Martin
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Par George R. R. Martin : A Clash of Kings (A Song of Ice and Fire, Book 2) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Clash of Kings (A Song of Ice and Fire, Book 2):

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Description :

Prsentation de l'diteurTHE BOOK BEHIND THE SECOND SEASON OF GAME OF THRONES,AN ORIGINAL SERIES NOW ON HBO. A SONG OF ICE AND FIRE: BOOK TWO In this thrilling sequel to A Game of Thrones, George R. R. Martin has created a work of unsurpassed vision, power, and imagination. A Clash of Kings transports us to a world of revelry and revenge, wizardry and warfare unlike any we have

ever experienced. A comet the color of blood and flame cuts across the sky. And from the ancient citadel of Dragonstone to the forbidding shores of Winterfell, chaos reigns. Six factions struggle for control of a divided land and the Iron Throne of the Seven Kingdoms, preparing to stake their claims through tempest, turmoil, and war. It is a tale in which brother plots against brother and the dead rise to walk in the night.

Here a princess masquerades as an orphan boy; a knight of the mind prepares a poison for a treacherous sorceress; and wild men descend from the Mountains of the Moon to ravage the countryside. Against a backdrop of incest and fratricide, alchemy and murder, victory may go to the men and women possessed of the coldest steel . . . and the coldest hearts. For when kings clash, the whole land trembles..comHow does he do it? George R.R. Martin's high fantasy weaves a spell sufficient to seduce even those who vowed never to start a doorstopper fantasy series again (the first book--A Game of Thrones--runs over 700 pages). A Clash of Kings is longer and even more grim, but Martin continues to provide compelling characters in a vividly real world. The Seven Kingdoms have come apart. Joffrey, Queen Cersei's sadistic son, ascends the Iron Throne following the death of Robert Baratheon, the Usurper, who won it in battle. Queen Cersei's family, the Lannisters, fight to hold it for him. Both the dour Stannis and the charismatic Renly Baratheon, Robert's brothers, also seek the throne. Robb Stark, declared King in the North, battles to avenge his father's execution and retrieve his sister from Joffrey's court. Daenerys, the exiled last heir of the former ruling family, nurtures three dragons and seeks a way home. Meanwhile the Night's Watch, sworn to protect the realm from dangers north of the Wall, dwindle in numbers, even as barbarian forces gather and beings out of legend stalk the Haunted Forest. Sound complicated? It is, but fine writing makes this a thoroughly satisfying stew of dark magic, complex political intrigue, and horrific bloodshed. --Nona

VeroExtraitARYAAt Winterfell they had called her "Arya Horseface" and she'd thoughtnothing could be worse, but that was before the orphan boy Lommy Greenhands hadnamed her "Lumpyhead." Her head felt lumpy when she touched it. When Yoren had dragged herinto that alley she'd thought he meant to kill her, but the sour old man hadonly held her tight, sawing through her mats and tangles with his dagger.

Sheremembered how the breeze sent the fistfuls of dirty brown hair skitteringacross the paving stones, toward the sept where her father had died. "I'mtaking men and boys from the city," Yoren growled as the sharp steel scrapedat her head. "Now you hold still, boy." By the time he hadfinished, her scalp was nothing but tufts and stubble. Afterward he told her that from there to Winterfell she'd be Arry theorphan boy. "Gate shouldn't be hard, but the road's another matter. You got along way to go in bad company. I got thirty this time, men and boys all boundfor the Wall, and don't be thinking they're like that bastard brother o'yours." He shook her. "Lord Eddard gave me pick o' the dungeons, and I didn'tfind no little lordlings down there. This lot, half o' them would turn you overto the queen quick as spit for a pardon and maybe a few silvers. The otherhalf'd do the same, only they'd rape you first. So you keep to yourself andmake your water in the woods,alone. That'll be the hardest part, the pissing, so don't drink no more'n youneed." Leaving King's Landing was easy, just like he'd said. The Lannister guardsmen on the gate were stopping everyone, but Yoren called one by name and their wagons were waved through. No one spared Arya a glance. They were looking for a highborn girl, daughter of the King's Hand, not for a skinny boy with his hair chopped off. Arya never looked back. She wished the Rush would rise and wash the whole city away, Flea Bottom and the Red Keep and the Great Sept andeverything, and everyone too, especially Prince Joffrey andhis mother.

But she knew it wouldn't, and anyhow Sansa was still in the cityand would wash away too. When she remembered that, Arya decided to wish forWinterfell instead. Yoren was wrong about the pissing, though.

That wasn't the hardest part at all; Lommy Greenhands and Hot Pie were the hardest part. Orphan boys. Yoren hadplucked some from the streets with promises of food for their bellies and shoesfor their feet. The rest he'd found in chains. "The Watch needs good men," hetold them as they set out, "but you lot will have to do." Yoren had taken grown men from the dungeons as well, thieves and poachers and rapers and the like. The worst were the three he'd found in the black cells who must have scared even him, because he kept them fettered hand and foot in the back of a wagon, and vowed they'd stay in irons all the way to the Wall.

Onehad no nose, only the hole in his face where it had been cut off, and the grossfat bald one with the pointed teeth and theweeping sores on his cheeks had eyes like nothing human. They took five wagons out of King's Landing, laden with supplies for the Wall: hides and bolts of cloth, bars of pig iron, a cage of ravens, books and paper and ink, a bale of sourleaf, jars of oil, and chests of medicine and spices. Teams of plow horses pulled the wagons, and Yoren had bought two coursers and a half-dozen donkeys for the boys. Arya would have preferred a real horse, but the donkey was better than riding on a wagon. The men paid her no mind, but she was not so lucky with the boys. She was two years younger than the youngest orphan, not

to mention smaller and skinnier, and Lommy and Hot Pie took her silence to mean she was scared, or stupid, or deaf. "Look at that sword Lumpyhead's got there," Lommy said one morning as they made their plodding way past orchards and wheat fields. He'd been a dyer's apprentice before he was caught stealing, and his arms were mottled green to the elbow. When he laughed he brayed like the donkeys they were riding. "Where's a gutter rat like Lumpyhead get him a sword?" Arya chewed her lip sullenly. She could see the back of Yoren's faded blackcloak up ahead of the wagons, but she was determined not to go crying to him for help. "Maybe he's a little squire," Hot Pie put in. His mother had been a baker before she died, and he'd pushed her cart through the streets all day, shouting "Hot pies! Hot pies!" "Some lordy lord's little squire boy, that's it." "He ain't no squire, look at him. I bet that's not even a real sword. I bet it's just some play sword made of tin." Arya hated them making fun of Needle. "It's castle-forged steel, you stupid," she snapped, turning in the saddle to glare at them, "and you better shut your mouth." The orphan boys hooted. "Where'd you get a blade like that, Lumpyface?" Hot Pie wanted to know. "Lumpyhead," corrected Lommy. "He prob'ly stole it." "I did not!" she shouted. Jon Snow had given her Needle. Maybe she had to let them call her Lumpyhead, but she wasn't going to let them call Jon a thief. "If he stole it, we could take it off him," said Hot Pie. "It's not his anyhow. I could use me a sword like that." Lommy egged him on. "Go on, take it off him, I dare you." Hot Pie kicked his donkey, riding closer. "Hey, Lumpyface, you gimme that sword." His hair was the color of straw, his fat face all sunburnt and peeling. "You don't know how to use it." Yes I do, Arya could have said. I killed a boy, a fat boy like you, I stabbed him in the belly and he died, and I'll kill you too if you don't let me alone. Only she did not dare. Yoren didn't know about the stableboy, but she was afraid of what he might do if he found out. Arya was pretty sure that some of the other men were killers too, the three in the manacles for sure, but the queen wasn't looking for them, so it wasn't the same. "Look at him," brayed Lommy Greenhands. "I bet he's going to cry now. You want to cry, Lumpyhead?" She had cried in her sleep the night before, dreaming of her father. Come morning, she'd woken red-eyed and dry, and could not have shed another tear if her life had hung on it. From the Paperback edition.